(b) The State Government rave reported that the arrest of persons under TADA are due to their complicity and involvement in offences under TADA and not out of any political animosity.

Expenditure on the Council of Ministers

2979. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government towards salaries, T.A./D.A./telephone and other perks of the Union Council of Ministers during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): The information on salaries, sumptuary and other allowances and travel/tour expenses is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Details of expenditure on Salary, TA/DA of the Union Council of Ministers.

Head of Account	Year-wise expenditure		
	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Salaries	9,45,000	6,39,000	16,38,000
Sumptuary & Other Allowances	48,94,000	33,34,000	46,10,000
Travel Expenses/Tour Expenses	4,86,82,000	4,23,59,000	8,49,89,000

Insult to National Flag

2980. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no salute was given to the National Flag on the 26th January, 1991 at Lakhisarai Subdivisional Magistrate's Office;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to punish those guilty of insulting the national flag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer could not arrive at the Lakhisarai Sub-Divisional Office Ground to salute the National Flag due to misunderstanding about the timing of hoisting.

(c) The State Government of Bihar are considering to punish the guilty Officer suitably.

Oil refinery in Madhya Pradesh

2981. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Legislature had on the 7th August, 1991 passed a resolu-

tion requesting the Central Government to establish an oil refinery in Madhya Pradesh and the same was forwarded to Government for necessary action; and

(b) if so, what action Government have so far taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided that a refinery in Central India will be set up by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited as a join venture with private sector partner. A Site Selection Committee has been constituted to identify a suitable location for setting up of the refinery.

Import of stainless Steel Plates

2982. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 113 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd January, '91 and state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has recommended the import of 548 tonnes of stainless steel plates by M/s. P. J. Pipe and Vessels Ltd. without payment of duty during October, 1989 to March, 1990, if so, what are the details of recommendations;

(b) on whose import licence the above said company was entitled to import the duty free material;

(c) what were the conditions governing the use of such material;

(d) what was the total value of the contract given to the said company for the above job;

(e) what was the actual total quantity and value of stainless steel plates imported by the said company;

(f) at what rate and for what amount the quantity of imported stainless steel plates the company sold in the market and for what reasons; and

(g) the action taken by Government against the company for the misappropriation of imported material?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) It is reported that M/s. P. J. Pipes and Vessels Ltd. had imported 548 MT of stainles steel plates, purportedly for use in casing pipes connectors and thread protectors for supply to ONGC, against Special Imprest Licences obtained by them. The firm had then clandestinely sold in the local market about 277 MT of the imported material. The action taken by the Government include steps for recovery of customs duty and imposition of penalties.

Burning of Gas in Bombay High

2983. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of total gas burnt in Bombay High annually;

(b) what are the reasons for burning of such gas; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) In 1991-92, on the average, approximately 8.7 MMSCMD was flared;

(b) The reasons are inadequate compression and transportation capacities;

(c) ONGC is implementing a Gas Flaring Reduction Project and on its completion in 1995 flaring in the Bombay High field is expected to be reduced to near zero levels.